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WILLIAM MOSELEY, GENT., OF LOWER NORFOLK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND HIS WIFE SUSANNA

BY G. ANDREWS MORIARTY

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FROM

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WILLIAM MOSELEY, GENT., OF LOWER NORFOLK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND HIS WIFE SUSANNA

By G. Andrews Moriarty, A.M., LL.B., F.S.A.

Communicated by the Committee on English and Foreign Research

William Moseley, Gent., a member of the Merchant Adventurers Company, who had been an English merchant domiciled in Holland, emigrated from Rotterdam in 1649 to Lower Norfolk County, Va., with his wife and family. It seems not unlikely that he had previously been a short time in Virginia in 1642. He was born in or about

1606 (see below), but his parentage has not as yet been ascertained and researches upon this point are now being conducted in England, under considerable difficulty owing to war conditions. It seems certain that he belonged to some branch of the Moseleys of Moseley in Staffordshire, who, at the end of the sixteenth century, were very numerous at Kinver, near Wolverhampton, in that county. Some of the Kinver family were merchants in London early in the seventeenth century.

The first mention of our William Moseley is an entry in the London Port Books under date of 26 March 1634 of a shipment of 32 tuns of beer by letters of the Lord Treasurer, to William Moseley "consierge" of the English House at Delft, and on 27 Oct. 1634 another shipment of 21 tuns of beer was consigned to him (London Port Books 38/7, 1633–34).

On 22 Dec. 1634 judgment for the plaintiff was given in the case of the widow of Cornelius Michielsz van Ring, a householder of Delft, against William Mosselaer, residing in Delft, who had married the widow of Arthur Blackmaer (Blackmore), an English merchant residing in Delft. The case shows that prior to his decease Arthur Blackmore had hired from the plaintiff a certain front house and warehouse situated on the Oostzijde (east side) of Oude Delft (Old Delft) opposite the Orphanage there from 1 May 1632 to 30 April 1633 for 318 gulden 20 pennies per annum. Arthur Blackmore had died and his widow had married the defendant, who had failed to pay the rent. Judgment was given for the plaintiff by Mr. Pieter Couwenburch van Belois, Adried de Urt, Jan Oom van Wijngaarden, Jan Dedel and Huyge Blocq, Lawyers and Counsellors of Holland (Civil Sentences of the Court of Holland in the Hof Archives of Holland, No. 10, Sentence No. 183; preserved at the Hague). The house in question is still standing, or was a few years since, and is a fine example of an old Dutch combined residence and warehouse, with the front peaked gable.

On 17 Jan. 1639/40 there was shipped in the *Alexander* from the port of London 8 tuns of beer consigned to "William Moseley, conserge of the English House at Rotterdam" and on 15 April 1640 a further shipment of 3 tuns was sent to him from London in the *Joseph*. Further shipments were made to Moseley at Rotterdam on 22 June and 25 Sept. 1640 (London Port Books 43/1).

On 30 Nov. 1640 Mr. William Fox and Mr. William Moseley, English merchants at Rotterdam, aged respectively about 38 and 34 years, deposed concerning Mr. Joris Liddel, an English merchant at Rotterdam (Rec. of Arent der Graeff, Notary of Rotterdam, No. 328, Act 312).

On 13 Aug. 1643 at a meeting of the Admiralty there was read a request of "Willem Moesselin, schaftmeester (*i.e.* steward) of the English Court at Rotterdam" (Algemeen Rijbsarchief, Inventory de Hulln, m. 138; at the Hague).

The will of Susanna Robbeson, resident of Rotterdam, widow of Mr. Amphrey Robbeson (Humphrey Robinson), merchant of Rotterdam, was dated 14 Aug. 1649. She made her mother Susanna

Moesalaer her heir and if she should die before the testatrix then her half brothers, Willem and Arteř Moesalaer were to be her heirs and their issue, but if they should also predecease her, without issue, then her aunts Lijsbet (Elizabeth) Cockeroff (Cockroft) and Hester Bornet (Burnet) and their issue were to be her heirs. Witnessed by Daniel Menl and Jan Trooster of Rotterdam. Signed by Susanna and the two witnesses.

Mr. Willem Moeslaer gave to Messrs. Abraham Halstead and Hendrick Monford (Montfort) procuration to collect moneys due to him. Signed Willem Moseley; witnessed by Daniel Venell and Jan Trooster (Record Office Rotterdam. Protocol of Notary Arent van der Graef, Rotterdam. No inventory recorded. Office W 337, pp. 597, 599).

License to pass beyond seas to Utricht was granted in 1632 to William Cockroft aged 27 years (born ca. 1605) (Lic. to Pass beyond Seas, vol. 15, Exch. K.R. 1632, P.R.O., London). On 5 Feb. 1634/5 William Cockroft was treasurer of the Merchant Adventurers ("The Merchant Adventurers in the Netherlands" by Dr. te Lintum (in Dutch), Brit. Mus. Reading Room, 8247 E 47, pp. 105, 264).

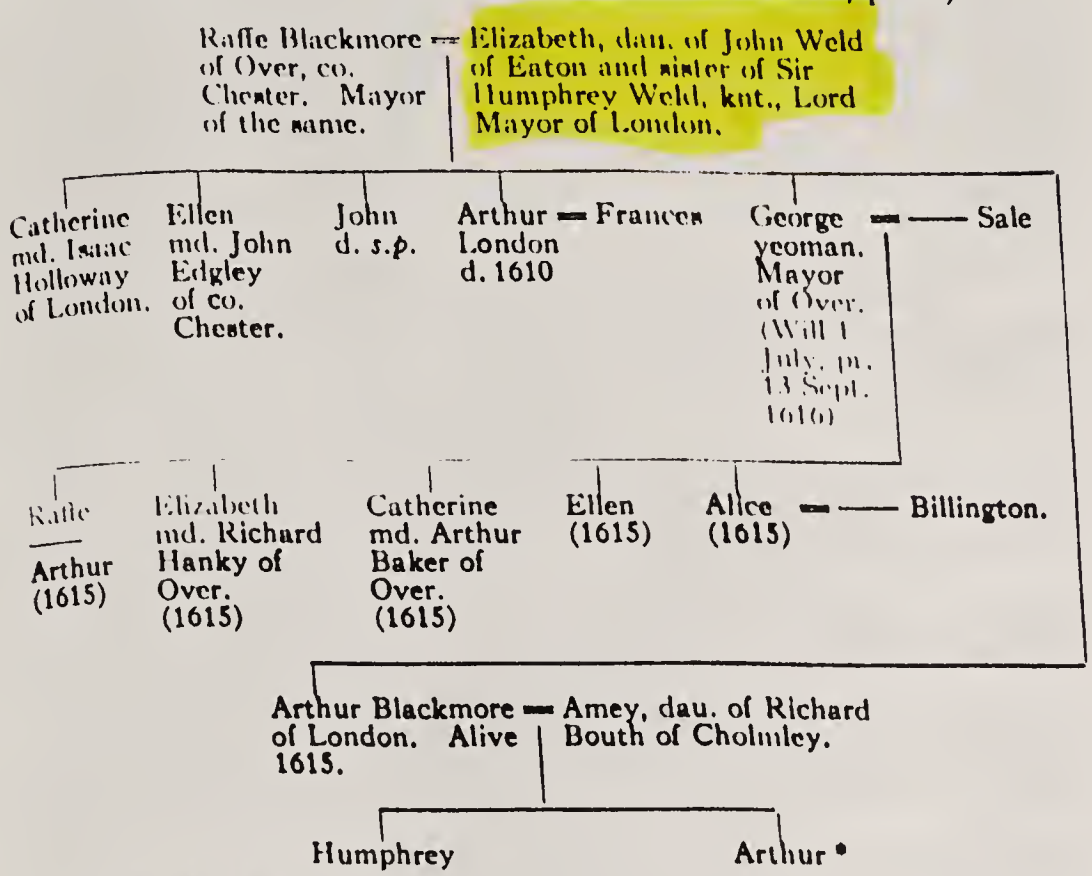
Will of Arthur Blackamore, citizen and grocer of London, dated 15 Sept. 1623, proved 23 Nov. 1626: "If I die at Colleyerrowe to be buried in Romford Church and if at London in All Saints, Honey Lane under the stone where my wife Amey lies". Bond for £60 to Richard Starkey for payment of £130 long since due by Sir Thomas Holcraft knt. deceased and Oliver Chisenall gent. This bond "I gave him in consideration of his having married my neice and late servant Ellen Blackamore" &c. To kinswoman Ellen Starkey aforesaid £5. To her sister Katteren Baker and her husband Arthur Baker £5 each. To their brother Arthur Blackamore and he to pay his sister Alice her portion &c. To Elizabeth and Alice, two other daughters of my brother George Blackamore. The husband of the said Elizabeth mentioned. To my sister Ellen Edglee and her son Arthur Edglee 20/ each. To my son Humphrey the lease of his house in Colleyerrow and to my son Arthur the leases, gardens, houses &c in the parish of St. Giles-without-Cripplegate, London, but not the lease of Swanley Grange, Yorks. Executor son Humphrey. (P.P.C. 125 Hele).

Adm. on the estate of Humphrey Blackmore of St. Giles-without-Cripplegate, London, granted to George Dawson, Esq., his principle creditor, on 24 Jan. 1651/2. Estate left unadministered by Susan Blackmore alias Robinson, his niece, deceased (P.C.C. Admons.).

Adm. on the estate of Elizabeth Cockroft, "late of parts beyond the seas", was granted on 7 July 1653 to Hester Burnet, aunt on the mother's side to her children, *i.e.* William, Elizabeth and Magdalen Cockcroft and the said Hester Burnet was made their curatrix. (P.C.C. Admons.)

PEDIGREE OF BLACKMORE

Visitation of Cheshire 1615 (Harl. Soc. Vol. 59, p. 26)



* He was a Merchant Adventurer of Delft. Died 1632-34. His widow married William Moseley.

PARISH REGISTER OF ST. BENET FINK, LONDON

Baptisms:

1595 Dec 7 Susanna Burnet, dau. of Ralph.
1598 May 21 Margaret Burnet, dau. of Ralph.
1600 May 1 John Burnet, son of Ralph.
1602 July 28 Ralph Burnet, son of Ralph.
1603/4 March 18 Magdalen Burnet, dau. of Ralph merchant.
1605 Sept. 22 Thomas Burnet, son of Ralph.
1607 Oct. 11 Mary Burnet, dau. of Ralph.
1609 Aug. 20 Margaret Burnet, dau. of Ralph.
1612/13 Jan. 6 Elizabeth Burnet, dau. of Ralph.
1614 April 24 Esther Burnet, dau. of Ralph.
1617 Sept. 8 Joseph Burnet, son of Ralph.

Ralph Burnet was made free of the Draper's Company in 1594 (Boyd's Roll of the Draper's Company).

The will of Ralph Burnet, draper, was proved 1625. He married 1594 a daughter of Thomas Clarke named Magdalen. Thomas Clarke married Margaret Fox in 1575 (Information of A. T. Butler, Esq., F.S.A., Windsor Herald, College of Arms, London).

The will of John Burnet of Lewisham, co. Kent, gent., dated 29 Jan. 1614/15, proved 1 May 1618. Lands in Lewisham and tenements in Deptford to sons John, William and Thomas Burnet. Tenements in St. Clement's Lane &c., London to be sold. Daughters Elizabeth, Mary, wife of William Farrant, and Anne, wife of William Eaton. Judith Moyle, "my late wife's daughter". Executor "my brother Ralph Burnet" (Cal. Hustings Wills, London, vol. II, p. 742).

1642. William Moseley transported by Adam Cooke for the Adventurers to Charles City County (Virginia Head Rights).

12 Aug. 1649. Power of Attorney from Henry Mountfort, merchant of Rotterdam to William Moseley "merchant in ye Virginias" to receive moneys due from William Underwood in Virginia (Lancs. Co. Va. Records, recorded Oct. 1653).

30 Nov. 1649 the Sheriff of Lower Norfolk County, Va., to put William Moseley in possession of the plantation which he hired of George Heigham, on the petition of William Moseley (Lower Norfolk Order, Bk. B, fo. 130).

16 March 1649/50 to 26 April 1655 William Moseley a Commissioner of Lower Norfolk. First made so on the petition of the other Commissioners (*ibid.*, Bk. B, fo. 140).

26 March 1650 certificate to William Moseley for 550 acres to transport himself, Susanna his wife, William and Arthur his sons, Susanna Robinson alias Corker et als. into the Colony (Va. Head Rights).

6 Aug. 1650 he exchanged jewels for cattle with Capt. Francis Yardley and on 10 Nov. 1652 Susanna his wife wrote to Yardley regarding them and stated that she had travelled from Rotterdam to "ye Hague" to show them to the goldsmiths.

10: 1 mo.: 1652 he was styled: "William Moseley late of Rotterdam in Holland in parts beyond the seas merchant, and now resident of ye East Branch of ye Elizabeth River in Lower Norfolk" (cf. Lower Norfolk Antiquary, James).

Will of William Moseley the elder, dated 29 June 1655, proved 15 Aug. 1655. Names "my cosen William Cockroft", "my grandchild Corker", "my wife Susanna" and "my son William Moseley". He left to "my son Arthur Moseley all that tract of land which I bought of George Kempe &c, which was surveyed by Mr. Emperor when I was in England" (Lower Norfolk Wills C, fo. 166; Lower Norfolk Wills, 1637–1710, by McIntosh, p. 16).

Will of William Cockroft of the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, planter, dated 20 Jan. 1686/7, proved 21 Feb. 1686/7 by William Moseley and John Wildbere. He gave his plantation bought of "my cousin William Moseley" to his son William Cockroft. To sons Jehue and Thomas Cockroft land on the West side of Broad Creek. To youngest son John Cockroft. To five children Sarah, William, Jehue, Thomas and John Cockroft. Brother-in-law William Handcock overseer (*ibid.*, Bk. 5, fo. 7; Mcintosh, p. 103).

William, the elder son of William and Susanna, inherited the plantation on the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, originally

called "Greenwich" and later in the eighteenth century "Rolleston". He married a daughter of John Gookin of Nansemond County, and niece of Major Gen. Daniel Gookin of Massachusetts. They were the ancestors of a long line of distinguished Virginian gentry.

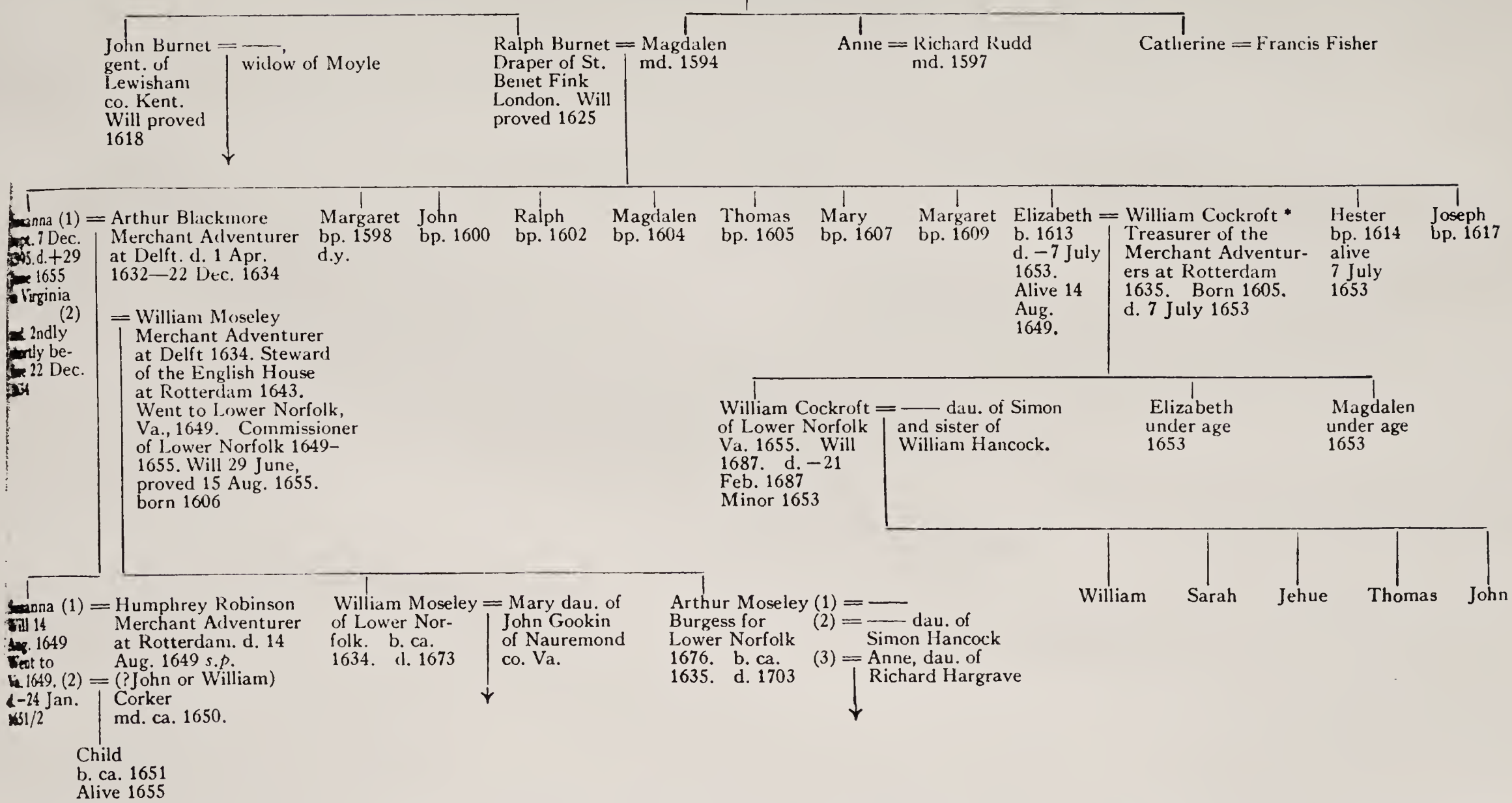
Arthur, the younger son, lived in Lynnhaven and in Norfolk. He was Burgess for Lower Norfolk in 1676. He married first ———, secondly a daughter of Simon and Sarah Hancock of Lower Norfolk and thirdly Anne, daughter of Richard Hargrave of Lower Norfolk and died in 1703. He left a large family by all three wives. Among his descendants was Capt. Joseph Moseley of Salem, Mass. (d. 1799) and the Hon. William D. Moseley, first Governor of the State of Florida. The Moseleys of North Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi, Essex County, Massachusetts and Texas descend also from Arthur.

When William Moseley came to Virginia he brought portraits of himself, his wife and his two sons. One of these has been identified as having been painted by the Dutch artist Cornelius Janseens, who painted much in London. It has frequently been stated that William Moseley was a Cavalier, who took refuge in Virginia in 1649. The above records tend to disprove this. The cause of his emigration was undoubtedly economic, as about 1649 the Merchant Adventurers in Holland were having a difficult time to keep going. The Parliament owed them large sums of money and relations between Holland and England were growing strained and culminated in the War of 1653.

Engravings of the early Moseley portraits will be found in vol. I of Bolton's "Portraits of the Founders".

NOTE.—In compiling the above account of William and Susanna Moseley the writer is greatly indebted to a distant kinsman, Robert B. Moseley, late of London and now of Washington, D. C., a descendant of Arthur Moseley. He placed at the contributor's disposal the results of his researches in the London Port Books and in the Dutch Archives, and his discovery of the will of Susanna Robinson was the starting point of these investigations.

Ancestry of William Moseley, Gent.



* Probably the brother of Caleb Cockroft citizen and silk man of London and a Merchant Adventurer. He was from Heptonstall, co. Yorks. and married a daughter of Daniel Oxenbridge. Will dated 2 Nov. 1643, proved 10 March 1644/5 (P.C.C. 55 Rivers).

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